



Westminster Christian Academy

9th Grade Summer Reading

Freshman Expository Writing

Trouble by Gary D. Schmidt
ISBN 978-0547331331

Why are you reading this book?

- The protagonist, Henry Smith, is a teenager who lives in an idyllic town, Blythbury-by-the-Sea, but he encounters a life-changing experience that challenges him to view his world differently. He begins a journey with his dog to climb Mt. Katahdin to find what it means to live in a fallen and broken world.
- Identity is a theme that students will explore throughout their year in Freshman Expository Writing through their reading of literature, writing, and personal reflection. Gary D. Schmidt's novel is one account of how a person's identity is shaped.

What to look for as you read:

- Throughout the entire novel following Henry Smith's journey, underline or highlight and annotate key moments, specific lines, or impactful statements that reflect one of the themes below.

Themes	Optional Challenge Themes
Loss and Grief	Forgiveness
Independence	Empathy
Prejudice	
Father/Son Relationships	

How will you be assessed on what you understood from this book when you return?

- Annotations While Reading:
 - Annotations are not only key passages that are highlighted or underlined but also include written ideas that show your thinking during reading. While reading, you should annotate by:
 - Highlighting or underlining at least 15-25 key passages that reflect the chosen theme. Points will be given for annotating the entirety of the novel.
 - Next to an annotation, briefly comment in the margins or on a Post-it and explain:
 - How a character's development (i.e. goals, beliefs, actions) reveal and expand the theme
 - How plot details explore and develop the theme
 - Asking thought-provoking questions that help to clarify information or deepen discussion

- See Example Annotation on the following page. This should be completed by the student before the first day of school.
- Paragraph Assessment
 - When students return to school, they will be guided through the writing process to produce a typed, formal paragraph to conclude the unit. This will be completed at school with the teacher.

Please email Hannah Stevenson at hstevenson@wcastl.org if you have any questions.

Example Annotation:

